

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled).

18. (currently amended) A hole cover for a vehicle, for covering an opening of a tubular member attached to a panel and through which a steering element is to pass, comprising:

a seal body made mainly of elastic material and ~~including having an elastic seal portion having and integrally including a cylindrical steering penetration~~ portion through which the steering element passes and with which the steering element makes sliding contact in a rotational direction, an annular sealing portion of greater diameter than said cylindrical steering penetration portion arranged substantially coaxially with said cylindrical steering penetration portion, and a pair of elastic deforming rings axially spaced from one another and connecting said cylindrical steering penetration portion and said annular sealing portion; and

a seal retaining member which fits on said seal body, said seal retaining member having a plurality of latch projections adapted to be pressed against the tubular member substantially along an axis of the steering element so as to be caught in a latch recess formed in a vicinity of an axial end of the tubular member,

wherein when said latch projections are caught in the latch recess, said seal retaining member presses said seal body against the axial end of the tubular member so that said annular sealing portion ~~elastic seal portion of said seal body~~ is brought into pressure contact with a sealing surface formed at the axial end of the tubular member, with said elastic deforming rings allowing relative movement of said cylindrical steering penetration portion and said annular sealing portion.

19. (previously presented) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein when said latch projections are caught in the latch recess, at least one of sound and vibration is produced.

20. (currently amended) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein said annular sealing

portion elastic sealing portion is configured to make contact with a sealing surface having a circular shape, and said latch projections are arranged to be caught in a latch recess having an annular shape.

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein a retaining member bias means for biasing said seal retaining member in a direction away from the panel is formed on said seal body.

23. (previously presented) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein said latch projections are arranged to be exposed in an assembled state of said seal retaining member with the tubular member.

24. (currently amended) A hole cover for a vehicle, for covering an opening of a tubular member attached to a panel and through which a steering element is to pass, comprising:

a seal body made mainly of elastic material and ~~including having~~ an elastic seal portion ~~having integrally~~ including a cylindrical steering penetration portion through which the steering element passes and with which said steering element makes sliding contact in a rotational direction, an annular sealing portion of greater diameter than said cylindrical steering penetration portion arranged substantially coaxially with said cylindrical steering penetration portion, and a pair of elastic deforming rings axially spaced from one another and connecting said cylindrical steering penetration portion and said annular sealing portion;

a seal retaining member which fits on said seal body;
and

a plurality of latch means for latching the seal retaining member with the tubular member substantially along an axis of the steering element,

wherein when said seal retaining member is latched to the tubular member by said latch means, ~~the~~said seal retaining member presses ~~the~~said seal body against an axial end of the tubular member so that ~~the~~said annular sealing portion elastic seal portion of the seal body is brought into pressure contact with a sealing surface formed at the axial end of said tubular member, with said elastic

deforming rings allowing relative movement of said
cylindrical steering penetration portion and said annular
sealing portion.

25. (new) A hole cover as claimed in claim 18, wherein said elastic seal portion further includes at least one annular sealing lip integral with said annular sealing portion, and wherein when said latching projections are caught in the latch recess, said at least one annular sealing lip is brought into pressure contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular member.

26. (new) A hole cover as claimed in claim 18, wherein said elastic deforming rings are configured so as to allow said cylindrical steering penetration portion to move radially relative to said annular sealing portion.

27. (new) A hole cover as claimed in claim 24, wherein said elastic seal portion further includes at least one annular sealing lip integral with said annular sealing portion, and wherein when said seal retaining member is latched to the tubular member by said latch means, said at least one annular sealing lip is brought into pressure contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular member.

28. (new) A hole cover as claimed in claim 24, wherein said elastic deforming rings are configured so as to allow said cylindrical steering penetration portion to move radially relative to said annular sealing portion.